



Child Protection Policy

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Introduction

EGEA, as a youth organisation, is committed to ensuring that children and young people are protected in all contexts of our work and find an environment that upholds their rights, respects their dignity, and fosters their potential. As a non-profit organisation that focuses on cultural exchange and peer-to-peer learning, we see it as our responsibility to protect young people and children from all forms of abuse, violence, and neglect. Our work is based on the principles of prevention, awareness-raising, and accountability to guarantee the highest level of safety and trust for young people.

Legal Framework

Children have a constitutionally and internationally enshrined right to protection from mistreatment and abuse. Our actions are based on children's rights as defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 19, which guarantees protection from violence, abuse, and neglect. Furthermore, we adhere to EU regulations, especially the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, Article 24, which establishes children's rights to protection and care, and the "best interests of the child" principle. With these legal frameworks as our foundation, EGEA commits to implementing the following prevention and intervention measures to ensure the well-being of children and young people.

Our Approach to Child Protection

EGEA creates safe spaces where young people and students, including children, can develop their potential. We provide clear structures that not only promote their development but also minimise the risk of abuse or inappropriate behaviour. We raise awareness among all volunteers, individuals and partner organisations that children must be taken seriously as independent individuals with unique rights and needs.

A safe approach to physical closeness and distance forms the basis for all interactions. Clear communication channels and transparent activity planning are just as essential to us as our commitment to act appropriately and promptly in cases of boundary violations or suspected abuse. Our goal is to create an environment characterised by trust, transparency, and vigilance.

At every event organised under the EGEA banner, we require that organisers are informed about local and national laws and regulations; the internal reporting process in case of Code of Conduct breaches; and are highly encouraged to have an awareness team on-site that ensures young people and children always have someone to talk to for any reason they might deem necessary.

Handling Suspected Cases

Should a suspicion of endangerment or abuse arise, the protection of the child or young person involved is our top priority. Suspected cases are investigated immediately and in accordance with any legal regulations and framework of the respective country where the incident took place. At the same time, we protect those affected by avoiding further burdens and maintaining discretion.

EGEA ensures that:

- Every official position has a clear understanding of the internal reporting process, outlined in our Code of Conduct (Appendix E to the Protocol).
- Our Body of Trust is the central point of contact for any violation of our Code of Conduct and functions as our child protection officers. They are responsible for the investigation of suspected cases of child endangerment and/or abuse.
- Incidences involving minors are reported to the Body of Trust.
- Reports are handled quickly, confidentially, and professionally.

- Incidences are reported to the legal guardians of the involved minors, except in cases where this would possibly endanger the child's wellbeing. In that case EGEA will contact relevant authorities and/or suitable help organisations.

Reporting procedures are designed to be transparent for both official positions and children, young people, and their families. In cases of suspected abuse, close cooperation with the relevant authorities is ensured to offer victims the best possible protection.

In accordance with the EU Directive on the Prevention of Sexual Violence, EGEA emphasises the importance of preventive measures to prevent all forms of abuse. All EGEA volunteers and participants of events are required to sign our Code of Conduct, which promises inclusive behaviour and allows EGEA to exclude individuals from the organisation after an offence.

Regular Review and Development

To meet the high standards of child protection, officials regularly review our guidelines and processes and adapt them to current legal and social developments. Officials are also encouraged to follow additional awareness and child protection training. This continuous reflection ensures that our safeguarding concept remains up to date and meets the needs of children and young people.

Conclusion

EGEA is actively committed to the protection and well-being of children and young people. With this policy, we create a foundation for safe and respectful collaboration, which underpins our vision of quality education and social justice